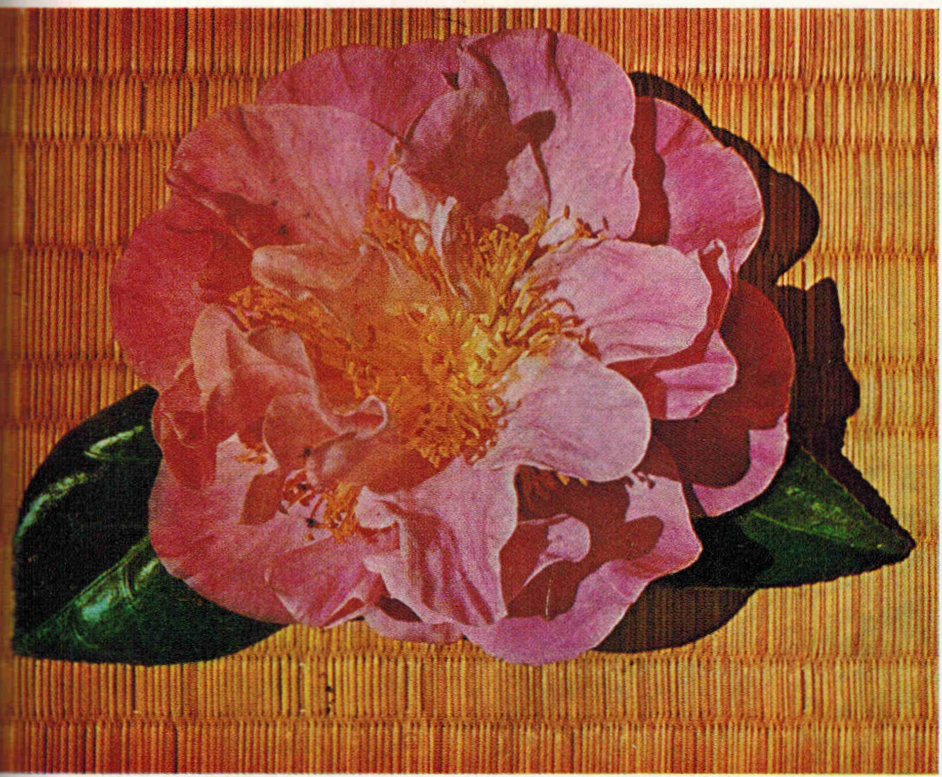
THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Coral Queen'
Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries

Vol. 25 *January 1964* *No. 3*

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: $6.00.

OFFICERS

A. WILKINS GARNER, Pres.
1444 El Rito, Glendale 8
Cl. 1-2630

R. F. DICKSON, JR., Vice Pres.
1227 N. Reidel, Fullerton
LA. 6-6404 (Area code 714)

HAROLD E. DRYDEN, Sec'y-Treas.
820 Winston Ave., San Marino
793-4214

DIRECTORS

WILBER FOSS
2345 Sherwood Rd., San Marino

ALVIN L. GUNN
12022 Gertrude Dr., Lynwood

EDWARDS H. METCALF
745 Canterbury Rd., San Marino

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638 Pine St., Upland

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4261 Commonwealth, La Canada

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PROF. E. G. WATERHOUSE
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W. F. HOOD
Box 627
Hamilton, New Zealand

THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

HAROLD E. DRYDEN, Editor, 820 Winston Ave., San Marino, Phone 793-4214

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VOL. 25 JANUARY 1964 NO. 3

THE COVER FLOWER

C. japonica 'Coral Queen'

This japonica seedling is a 1963 introduction of Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, California. It is a large semi-double coral pink flower with fluted petals. It blooms mid-season on a vigorous upright plant.

THOUGHTS *from the editor*

One of my pleasures in the camellia hobby is in watching for blooms on seedlings. I plant the seeds, of course, to raise seedlings for grafting stock. That's what I say to myself when I plant the seeds, but deep under there's the hope that out of them will come a beautiful new flower. I have two that I am looking at for the third year and this is the year of decision as to what I shall do with them. Shall I keep them or cut them off?

My thinking on the subject has been influenced a little by my observation of the new 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. The book is getting bigger with every edition. I suggested to Bill Woodroof early in the year that we should do something about weeding out the "dead" varieties, to make space for the new ones. When he asked how we would go about the selection of the "dead" varieties, the subject was closed because I would not know how to do it. The nomenclature book will continue to grow as new varieties of the different species are named.

So back to new seedlings and whether they should be retained or have their heads cut off. We need have no great concern about what most camellia nurseries will do. I see new seedlings of camellia nurseries in Southern California and would be happy as a new father if I had grown some of them. But they will be chopped off because these professionals do not see a large enough market for them to justify their propagation. Should I follow their rules in making my own decisions?

I think not, if I will only look at it as an amateur and not think that a seedling has to be good enough to be named for "Aunt Minnie" for me to keep it around for awhile. Some day I hope to have a seedling that will be good enough to be named 'Elsie Dryden'; or if it is a big red like 'Reg Ragland' or 'Guilio Nuccio', for one of my sons. Until that time comes, I have no plans for naming any new seedlings. That will not deprive me of the pleasure, however, of keeping around, just to look at, some of the seedlings I have grown. Numbers will identify them as well as names, and without names there will be no inducement for me to have them registered. Under this plan, I can keep one each of the two that are in the year of decision, and others as they may come along until the need for space forces me to another decision. In this way I can derive full pleasure from my seedling propagation, without imposing on other camellia people the burden of additional camellia names and the seeming feeling of obligation to have it "because it is new".

Harold E. Dryden

AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY MAKES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN RULES FOR COOPERATIVE SHOWS

Most of the camellia shows in the United States are "in cooperation with" the American Camellia Society; that is, the show rules conform in general with A. C. S. suggested rules and A. C. S. Certificates are awarded by the local show. In this manner, reasonable consistency is maintained in the rules that govern the many shows that are held every year throughout the camellia belt. The A. C. S. Governing Board at its Fall Meeting which was held November 23, 1963 in Columbia, S. C. made some changes in existing rules, to be effective for all shows scheduled January 1, 1964 and thereafter, which are of interest to all camellia growers who participate in camellia shows.

Heretofore there have been 2 Classes authorized for various growing conditions; namely, for blooms grown outside and for blooms grown inside. Under the revised rules, there are three classes, with the proviso that cooperative shows at their option may combine any two or more of these Classes. They are:

(a) Blooms grown *Outside*, defined as "Blooms from plants that have been grown in the open without any protection other than that furnished by an unheated slat house where the slats have no covering whatever over them or any substance between them."

(b) Blooms grown *Inside*, defined as "Blooms from plants in enclosed structures grown and/or bloomed under artificial conditions where the temperature and/or moisture can be or is largely or completely controlled."

(c) Chemically treated blooms, defined as "Blooms which have been treated with any chemical substance for any purpose other than prevention, suppression, or eradication of fungus, other diseases, insects or any pest. Gibberellic Acid, any of its derivatives or similar type chemicals are specifically included." It is further provided that no such treated bloom shall be disqualified from entry in any American Camellia Society cooperative show.

As stated by Milo E. Rowell, Chairman of the A. C. S. Committee on Exhibitions and Awards, in his announcement of the revisions in the November 1963 issue of the A. C. S. THE CAMELLIA JOURNAL, "The position of American Camellia Society relating to gibberellic acid is that we have established a third class as an optional addition to outdoor grown blooms and indoor grown blooms which will be called "Chemically Treated Blooms". *This class is not required.* Any local society may use one or more of the classes specified in order to encourage the development of knowledge in growing outstanding camellias. American Camellia Society rules *require* that chemically treated blooms be received and placed in competition in the class specified by the local society."

As a corollary to the establishment of a Class for chemically treated blooms, the new rules provide that Outstanding Bloom Certificates will be offered for both chemically non-treated and chemically treated blooms in the following classifications:

Japonica Blooms Grown Outside
Japonica Blooms Grown Inside
Reticulatas Grown Outside
Reticulatas Grown Inside
Hybrids Grown Outside
Hybrids Grown Inside
Gold Certificate for Sweepstakes

(Continued on next page)

Winner and Silver Certificate for runner-up are authorized in each of the following classes:

Blooms Grown Outside

Blooms Grown Inside

Blooms Grown Outside, Chemically Treated

Blooms Grown Inside, Chemically Treated

A drastic change has been made in connection with the award of Highly Commended Seedling Certificates. Even though the intent of this award has been that it be given only to outstanding seedlings that add something to existing varieties, the A. C. S. Board of Governors felt that giving the Certificate to the blue ribbon seedling winner has become too much a matter of routine. The new rules provide that Highly Commended Seedling Certificates will be given only to seedlings that have received a recommendation by two-thirds of all accredited qualified judges present at three different shows. The local show will issue what will be called a Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificate, and three of these Provisional Certificates are required for the issuance of a Highly Commended Seedling Certificate. The originator has five years after first showing his bloom to obtain these three Provisional Certificates. They can be won in the same or in different shows in the same or in different years. That is to say, if in a five year period an exhibitor shows his seedling and receives a Provisional Certificate in the same show in any three years, he gets his Highly Commended Seedling Certificate. Or if the exhibitor shows his seedling in three different shows in the same year, even if the shows are in three different cities on the same day or in successive weeks or any other way and receives a Provisional Certificate in the three shows, he will then get his Highly Commended Seedling Certificate.

The Provisional Certificates will be issued by the local shows but the exhibitor must advise the Executive Secretary of American Camellia Society that he has won three Provisional Certificates. A. C. S. will then issue the Highly Commended Seedling Certificate directly to him.

An additional limitation has been placed on seedlings competing for a Provisional Certificate. To enable the judges to see a naturally grown flower, every exhibitor is required to furnish a written statement that the seedling exhibited has not been chemically treated. Such treatment will disqualify the bloom from consideration for a Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificate, not, to again quote from Mr. Rowell "because American Camellia Society is opposed to such treatment (actually we wish to encourage it under all other circumstanies) but because we feel that any variety receiving this award should be a good camellia on its own for all camellia growers to grow".

Show regulations may permit more than one specimen of the same seedling to be exhibited in the seedling class as one entry to enable the judges to more accurately appraise the value and uniformity of bloom of a new introduction. Also, judges may award more than one Provisional Commended Seedling Certificate when, in the opinion of two-thirds of the accredited judges officiating in the show (and never fewer than three), the exceptional quality of the seedling flowers in competition justifies such action.

★

1964 S.C.C.S. dues should be paid now so that new 1964 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE can be sent

PREPARING CAMELLIA BLOOMS FOR SHOWS

Dr. Leland E. Chow
Bakersfield, California

Instrumentarium:

Q-Sticks
Tweezers
Rose Cutting Shears
Hemostats
Camel Hair Brushes
Clothes Pins

After reading the above list, it sounds like an instrument tray being prepared for a major surgery operation! In a small way, preparing camellias for a show is an "operation"! It takes infinite care, an immeasurable amount of time and unwavering patience to carry out this sort of "operation".

Like all hobbies, many "tricks of the trade" are learned through the observation of other experts. My listing of instruments is a combination of borrowed knowledge from my good camellia friends, and an assortment of things from my dental shelves. I'm sure that each one of you have your favorite implements.

Show time is the time when we truly display the results of an entire Camellia Year. Therefore, we must prepare the blossoms to reveal their excellence for a show. A combined effort of work in the garden and the proper use of effective instruments can help show off your winners. Here are some of the things I do.

Four days before display time, I suggest that you walk through your garden and check possible buds, size of buds and color. Then pin back the leaves of promising buds. Use *clothes pins* for pinning leaves. This gives the bud a better chance to open without interference. When buds start to bloom, if at all possible, pick out only two blooms of the best plant for single entries. Then, of those two blooms,

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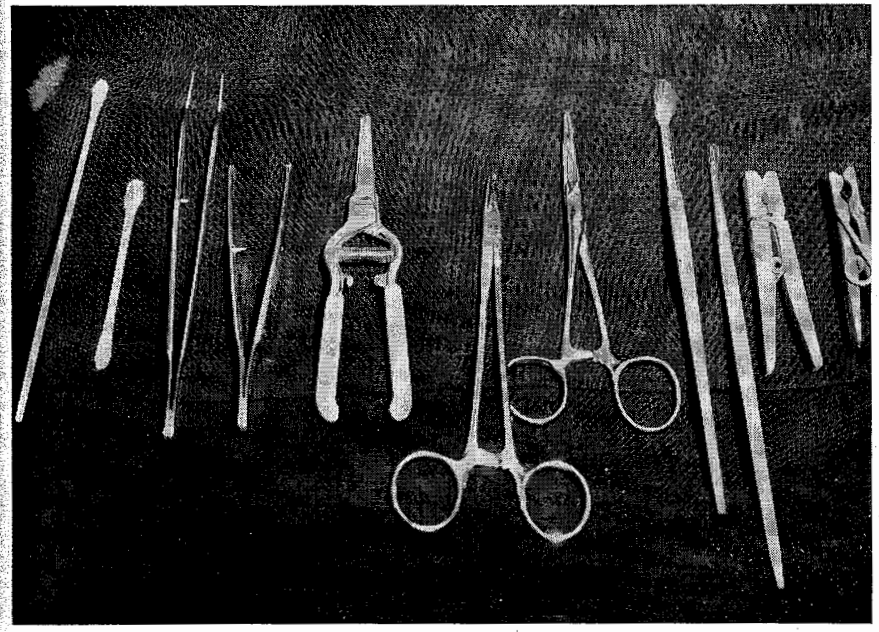

pick out only one for display. Use rose shears for cutting. Eliminate or pass up extremely mud splattered flowers. White blossoms with very "dirty faces" should be rejected. It takes too much time and energy to clean these. Sometimes the results are not rewarding.

Grooming camellias before packing is essential. Use a *camel hair brush* to dust off dirt. If dirt is stained in the bloom or mottled use a wet *Q-Stick* to gently "wash off" petals. Then use a dry *Q-Stick* to dry off moisture. Brush off disturbed pollen from petals with a *camel hair brush.* Larger particles of dirt and foreign matter can be removed with *tweezers.*

There has always been a question of whether refrigerated blooms should be displayed. I refrigerate a few of the blooms, but not all of them. Whether you bring refrigerated blooms or not, always groom each blossom!

A few days before a show, line your boxes with shredded paper (excelsior). When you are ready to travel some distance (like we do) place each flower gently on the excelsior. After you place a bloom on the shredded paper and decide to move it to another position in the box, try lifting it gently with a *hemostat.* Your fingers and coat sleeves are never slim enough to lift a flower without bruising another one. Let the *hemostat* replace your fingers.

Clothes pins protect these blooms from the leaves.

Now that your blooms are packed for traveling, extra care should be taken to keep the temperature down. I place 3 or 4 ice cubes in between flowers in each box. I then use "liquid ice" (canned ice which can be refrozen) and place it on top of all the boxes. With an old blanket I cover boxes for insulation. Now your cool blossoms will be fresh for display.

Grand finale to all your efforts is placing your flowers for the judges. Before placing flowers on the table, give them the "once-over inspection". You'll find that your *brush* will come in handy for cleaning a speck of dust which may have been overlooked. Another last minute grooming suggestion is the leaves. They deserve your consideration too. Leaves are an accessory which enhance the beauty of any flower, so clean them and shine them with a moist *Q-Stick.*

All these processes are mechanical techniques in picking, packing and traveling. The most important "instrument" is *Your Attitude!* We are all lovers of the beautiful camellia. Accompanying this love should be great enthusiasm of showing off these winning beauties. Take lots of time to pick and groom your flowers. Don't count the hours you are taking for this job. Chalk it all up to work in preesnting fragile debutantes of the floral world for the eyes of Lovers of Nature.

S.C.C.S. members who have not paid their 1964 dues have not received new 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

ON SHOWING CAMELLIAS

Mrs. Agnes Rowell
Fresno, California

Soon our Camellia Shows will be in full swing, and the time has come to call your attention to the gentle art of camellia showmanship, and to drop a few little Pearls of Wisdom to help keep you on your toes when you place your blooms on the display tables. You've all shown camellias, and I'm sure you all know how it should be done, but the trouble seems to be that some of us don't allow ourselves enough time to carefully place them so they will show off to their best advantage.

Every year, and at every show I attend, I am amazed at the carelessness of many exhibitors in handling and placing their flowers on the show tables. Don't lose sight of the fact that the camellia is one of nature's most beautiful works of art, and as such, is entitled to a little care in being displayed properly. Bear in mind that a table full of fresh, well-placed camellias is a sight to behold, and **YOUR** bloom should be given as good a chance of winning as the other fellow's. When flowers are set on the table any-which-way, the judges are unable to see them as they should be seen, and any judge, no matter how able he may be, cannot do a good job if the flowers are placed on the tables in such manner that he has to stand on his head in order to see them.

Camellias are delicate blooms, and they should be handled with loving care. Let me suggest that after you have placed your bloom on the display table, step back, look at it, and if it isn't showing to its best advantage, re-arrange it. If necessary, cut off a piece of the stem so your flower won't sit too high off the container. A camellia that is sitting up as pretty as a picture, looking squarely at the judges, is going to get all the consideration it deserves.

Here are just a few DO'S and DON'TS to impress upon you the importance of showmanship in any kind of competition.

DO allow a little extra time in picking your camellias for the show, so that you won't be so rushed, and will have time to do it right. Into your flat carrying box, place your flowers so they have plenty of room. Don't pile them on top of each other; they are delicate and bruise easily, and a bruised flower doesn't have a chance for a Blue Ribbon. As long as you are competing, you might just as well do as good a job of it as you know how.

DO dress up your blooms. Take time to wipe the dust off the leaves. I find that putting a little Wesson Oil, or Crisco, on a rag and wiping the leaves, gives them a wonderful shine, and there's nothing like a shiny, green leaf to do wonders in setting off your flower. If some pollen, or some dust, has fallen on the petals, take a small water color brush, and carefully brush it clean. This won't spoil the bloom if you don't get too heavy-handed. **BE FUSSY!** It pays off!

DO show your blooms with one or two leaves attached, to set them off properly. But don't go overboard and use three or four — this makes the stem too long for the containers, and your bloom will fall over on its side.

DO place your bloom in the container so that the judges and viewing public can look at its face — a lop-sided view won't do your flower justice.

DON'T show two flowers that have been left back to back at the terminal. Disbudding takes care of that, but if

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CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE -- 1964

Date	Society	Show Location	Registration Chrm.
Feb. 8-9	San Diego Camellia Society	Conference Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego	Mrs. Evelyn Henry P.O. Box 522 Chula Vista
Feb. 15-16	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	California Bank, 321 E. Holt Ave., Pomona	Bancroft Benner, Jr. 170 N. Monte Vista Ave. San Dimas
Feb. 15-16	Peninsula Camellia Society	Hillsdale Community Room, 48 Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo	E. P. Tenney 1903 Oak Knoll Dr. Belmont
Feb. 22-23	Temple City Camellia Society	Lecture Hall, L. A. County Arboretum, Arcadia	Ernest Pieri 601 E. Elm St. San Gabriel
Feb. 23	Camellia Society of Santa Clara	Civic Auditorium, San Jose	Show is non-competitive
Feb. 29-Mar. 1	Los Angeles Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens, La Canada	Karl E. Blank 1211 N. Edgemont Los Angeles 27
Feb. 29-Mar. 1	Northern California Camellia Society	Diablo Valley College, Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hills	Ernest M. Parmiani 3786 Raap Martinez
Mar. 7-8	Camellia Society of Kern County	San Joaquin Tractor Bldg., Bakersfield	Charlotte Johnson 1902 Niles St. Bakersfield
Mar. 7-8	Camellia Society of Sacramento	Memorial Auditorium, 15th & J Streets, Sacramento	Mrs. J. Carroll Reiners 6160 S. Land Park Dr. Sacramento 31
Mar. 8	Central California Camellia Society	McLane High School, 2727 N. Cedar, Fresno	John Juergens 625 E. Brown Fresno
Mar. 14-15	Modesto Camellia Society	Modesto Junior College Library, Modesto	Mrs. A. R. Silver 337 Severin Ave. Modesto

What to Do

by W. F. GOERTZ

The most interesting and absorbing type of hobby is one that gives you something to do, think about, or look forward to practically every week of the year (without a lot of hard work). This is the Camellia hobby.

Most of the Camellia Show's regulations specify that blooms entered must have been from a plant owned by exhibitor at least thirty days. So early January is the time for you to visit one of the fine Camellia nurseries in Southern California and get the thrill of purchasing and owning a new introduction *now* while it's still new. You not only will be one of the few to be able to display these blooms at the shows — but will have the distinct pleasure of being able to offer a rare scion or two to your friends. These Camellia nurserymen are grand people with whom to visit! You always will get a new idea or two and, if you're lucky, they will show you some of their new seedlings in bloom for the first time.

While at the nursery (if you don't yet have your own seedlings ready), shop for some good understock so you can be ready for January and February grafting. Be sure to use only *good* healthy understock. I have learned the hard way that the grafted "bargain" plant may result in a "take" but you will worry along with a sickly runt from now on.

By far the most important phase of grafting is to start with a good root system. I think a good policy (and I plan to do this in the future), is to prepare understock a year in advance. — This winter take them out of the 1-gallon cans — inspect the roots, bare-root if necessary, and replant in 2-gallon containers and by next winter you will have something worthwhile with which to work. This of course would probably only be practical for those of us who graft only one or two dozen plants a year. I like to use glass jars in preference to plastic bags on the smaller understock. Be sure to use a sharp knife when trimming the scion, and don't rip the understock stem — make a clean and straight cut through the bark where the scion will line up. Use a root hormone powder to lightly cover all cut portions and you will have no loss from fungus. Keep grafts out of the sun and rain, but don't allow them to dry out too much.

We should get the balance of our transplanting done this month. Those new plastic 2-gallon containers now are available and these should outlast metal cans. The fact that they are tapered is a big advantage — the plant can be bumped out for root inspection later on, and replaced without damage.

Those of you who heard Julius Nuccio's talk on Seedlings at the S.C.C.S. November meeting have surely put some (or some additional) seeds to work as the first step towards the most exciting phase of Camellia growing. If not, you can still procure seeds from S.C.C.S., plant them in rows 1" apart, ¼" deep, in a mixture of 50% sand and 50% peat — in a

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HOW TO SUCCEED IN CAMELLIAS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING -- MUCH

Frank F. Reed
Pasadena, California

Like J. Pierpont Finch, of fame in the Broadway hit "How to Succeed in Business without Trying," you must follow the book in assuring that your plants have the proper food, the necessary amount of water, the essential balance between sun and shade, the most exact pruning for bloom production, a modicum but still sufficient insecticide, etc., etc. Our translation of these glittering generalities and the study of available folklore has lead to some specific "How To's" outlined below:

How To

Use containers so that you can control your soil and culture. The Nuccios use an excellent mix: two parts of Devil's Gate Dam silt with one part fine sand and then add to this an equal volume of peat moss. Feed your plants with half the prescribed amount of Camellia Grow (or equivalent) on April 15, June 15, and August 15. In the first two feedings add Nuccio's Iron in the ratio of one iron to 4 fertilizer. Use spagnum moss or peat moss as a mulch. Each weekend fill each container with water. On days when the temperature is above 85°F., sprinkle the foliage and the mulch very generously.

During the summer and up to October 15, give all camellias 50% sun in lathe or saran house or under trees with scattered foliage. This will provide a good set of well developed floral buds and the plants can be moved to shadier positions. In this shuffle, it is adviseable to move the whites and light pinks to spots where they will not get the morning sun which will brown the petals which have dew or other moisture on them.

Another How To or Two

Before we get too successful, we had better go back and procure some camellias. If your success is to be measured by ribbons and silverware, a balanced line of plants is essential. This balance is accomplished by having various species and by concentrating on early and late Japonica blooms.

There have been some tough and some easy spots in the battle for points and ribbons. The toughest is probably the large japonicas and the easiest has been the "so called" sasanquas. One of the competitors with a few choice sasanquas corraled 71% of all the ribbons in this class at the SCCS and the Temple City meetings during the last two years. He has rarely been top scorer in the larger japonicas.

If you have some good miniatures and show at every meeting you can chisel a few points away from the Metcalf-Robinson-Kruger monopoly. For those who persevered with retics during the past few years, there were occasionally a few ribbons that slipped through the Krumm-Storment-Hamilton axis. (Incidentally you should plant your retics in the ground. Don't do as I do but do as I say. This is one of the oldest doctrines of our Army.)

While you are reviewing the October Review[1] for the best competitive plants, you must select some fine hybrids which will not only be pleasing but provide some soft touches in the bloom competitions. (An aside: 'Margaret Waterhouse', 'E. G. W.', 'Bonnie Marie' and 'Holland's Orchid' are quite sun tolerant. Margaret was really outstanding during the 1963 week of 105° weather in Pasadena.)

Disbudding for competition may mean taking off about 75% of all buds. Leave only one bud on each terminal. On early Japonica varieties, generally leave the largest in each cluster of buds. However a few small buds should be left in order to have blooms for show time. On the late varieties, a large number of the smaller buds can be left to provide late blooms.

To encourage late blooms, some of the first flush of growth can be cut back so that only two leaves are left on a new terminal. Generally, we have given this pruning treatment to five or six terminals around the bush and two or three on top. These two actions have given us a goodly supply of late blooms. On March 26, 1962 we displayed 92 varieties out of our total of 148. In 1963, we had 72 out of our 172 varieties to bloom in May. This pruning can also help in shaping your plants.

How To Really

For fine early blooms, you should use Nature's gift to camellias, Gibberellic Acid[2]. It can force blooming up to six months earlier than normal and can force some tough formals to open quite regularly. The camellia blooming season is now at your command! Down South, they can bloom many camellias before the killing freezes arrive.

There is a chance that you can improve the Gib action by adding Indole Acetic Acid, the most plentiful auxin which normally reacts with Gibberellic Acid[3]. There are some promising results with this mixture but valid proof is still lacking. It would be remarkable if one could determine the proportions of Gib and auxin that were intended by nature to develop flowers, seed, and fruit throughout the year.

Judicious pruning will improve the health and the blooms of your plants. Remove all of the laterals and spurs that are inside where they can not receive the proper amount of air and sun. When the laterals from adjacent branches cross each other this situation should be corrected by pruning one or both of the laterals.

When some of the branches are now long and stringy, they should definitely be cut back as far as possible. This means to cut back as near to the trunk as possible but still retain a fairly recent lateral on the branch. The pruning can best be done during the blooming season or immediately thereafter.

How To Finale

Success is bound to come with real interest, the desire to raise camellias and the giving of them to the fairer sex. The greatest satisfaction for Kathleen and me comes when the recipients are Little Old Ladies in Pasadena who have passed their ninetieth birthdays. All these pleasures are best described by Roy Thompson in his recent article[4] on Camellias and Retirement. This is the best article on an answer to the so-called problems of senior citizens.

References

(1) Reed, "Best Blooms in So. Calif.," CAMELLIA REVIEW May 1963 and Oct. 1963.

(2) Reed, "Early Blooms with Gibberellic Acid," CAMELLIA JOURNAL Jan. 1963; CAMELLIA REVIEW Feb. 1961, Feb. 1962, Nov. 1962 and May 1963.

(3) North, C. P., "Some Effects of Gibberellic Acid on Camellias," ACS YEARBOOK 1959.

(4) Thompson, R. T., "Camellias and Retirement," CAMELLIA REVIEW May 1963.

WHAT TO DO *(Continued)*

box about 8″ to 10″ deep. Set box in filtered sun, protect from the birds with some wire screen, and all you have to do until a year hence is to keep the mix moist. As I stated at the beginning: With Camellias, to have fun, you must constantly have projects going. What you do today will reward you for years to come.

SURVIVAL OF THE MOST FIT

C. R. Parks
Geneticist, Camellia Research Advisory Committee

The concept that the environmentally most adapted or adjusted living organisms survive and reproduce in nature dates back to the writings of Darwin and Wallace over 100 years ago. Their pioneer work and the studies of great numbers of biologists since have produced a great mass of data which support the general observations of these first researches. More recent studies show that natural selection of more adapted living organisms is a rather subtle process, and not the spectacular process that some early workers imagined. Natural selection may most accurately be thought to be operating on a population rather than individuals. That is, those members of the population which are most adapted to the environment produce the most offspring, and thus are the parents of a disproportionately large percentage of the members of the next generation; therefore the hereditary makeup of the organisms which produce the most offspring becomes more predominant with each succeeding generation.

An example of the above may be considered from studies done by Dr. Harlan Lewis on the native annual *Clarkia*, with respect to two similar species of clarkias which differ from each other only in minor details and the time required by each for maturing seed. It turns out that in a relatively dry season the plants which can flower and mature seed in the shortest period have the greatest chance to produce the most offspring. With this series of dry years that we have had recently in California, the species that has the capacity to mature its seed most rapidly has the greatest advantage, or so to speak is the most fit. This "evolution in action" can be actually observed as year by year the short-life-span species of *Clarkia* slowly takes over the territory once held by the species with the longer seed-maturity period.

The question that comes to the mind of the reader, of course, is what has this to do with camellias since as good horticulturists we expose the camellia to the environment we choose. This is so in Southern California since we control the amount of shade, water, fertilizer and so forth, but in all parts of the United States the gardener does not have so much control since in these other areas there is another factor, not important here, which can and does limit camellia cultivation — and that is low temperature. We may note further that low temperature limits the cultivation of some types and varieties of camellias more than others. The fact that some types are limited more than others is our clue since this means that there is variation for natural selection to act upon. This is not feasible since natural selection is too slow, but we can speed up the process of selection by deliberate exposure of camellia cultivars (i.e., cultivated varieties) to extreme cold and then artificially select those types that can tolerate the cold. Where do we get materials for such tests? There are basically four sources of material that we can choose for testing, and these are: the best products of natural selections, camellia varieties now in cultivation, open pollinated seed from commercial varieties and "planned parenthood" for cold-hardy seedlings.

Let us consider our first source of material for cold-hardiness testing — the best products of natural selection. It is through the process of natural selection that the camellia has the cold-hardiness that we observe in presently cultivated varieties. *Camellia japonica* is adapted to the winters

of Japan due to its long natural existence in that country. Since *C. japonica* in Japan is in one of the coldest areas where *Camellia* occurs naturally, then we would expect *C. japonica* to be the most cold-hardy camellia, and indeed that is the case. However, since *C. japonica* is a wide ranging species occurring in both quite cold and relatively warm climates, we would expect a good deal of variation in the degree of cold any given *C. japonica* alone can withstand; and this is exactly what is observed since there are large variations in the inherent cold-resistance of cultivated *C. japonica* cultivars. Now we would expect that the camellias native to the coldest parts of Japan would be the most cold-resistant of all, and so in recent years extensive collections of hopefully cold-resistant camellias have been made from these cold areas of Japan by Creech and others. The first collections from the cold, but very humid, Komonato Island have proven to be significantly cold-hardy but not quite as cold-resistant as the most cold-resistant varieties now being grown commercially. The probable reason that these have failed their expectations for cold-resistance is due to the fact that they were adjusted to a very moist cold in their native habitat while most damage to camellias in this country is done during periods of cold, relatively dry continental air masses. Since the time of the Komonato collections in Japan, Camellia collections have been made from areas in Japan which are as cold as Komonato but where the air is much dryer. We can hope that these collections will be more resistant to the cold of the American winter than the Komonato collections proved to be.

Now these introductions are being tested with commercial varieties of camellias grown in the United States to determine whether the plant introduction material is more cold-hardy than the varieties being grown presently commercially, and also as to which of the commercial varieties are most resistant to cold.

There are two ways we can shuffle the hereditary cold-resistance cards that we have in both plant introductions and commercial varieties. We can merely collect the open pollinated seed from camellia varieties and introductions. In this case we know that the cold-resistant variety is the female parent, but we have no idea whether the male or pollen parent was cold-hardy or not. However, the advantage of this approach is that we can collect very large quantities of such open pollinated seed, and the possibility of growing out large numbers increase the chance of obtaining a more cold-resistant seedling. 2800 seed from the known cold-resistant *C. japonica* cv. 'Berenice Boddy' were harvested

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this fall alone. These seed have been sent to the cold-hardiness test stations in the east where they are being germinated and grown with protection for the first seedling period. After the seedling period, these plants will be exposed to the severe cold of their particular cold-hardiness station at Ithaca, New York, southeastern Pennsylvania or near Washington, D. C.

As has been pointed out, the weakness of using open-pollinated seed is the fact that the pollen parent is unknown, so we can only be certain that the seed parent is contributing cold-hardiness. It would be much more desirable if both parents were contributing genes (hereditary characteristics) for resistance to cold weather. In order to carry out this program we have controlled hybridization, sort of a planned parenthood for camellias, with the objective of a more cold-resistant camellia always in mind. The majority of the parents have been chosen from cold-hardiness test plots at Longwood Gardens under the direction of Dr. R. Lighty. These extensive trials under his direction in the severe climate of Pennsylvania are showing clearly which camellia varieties can withstand the most cold. We are then making hybrids between as many of the cold-hardy camellias as possible. In order to increase the chance of a more cold-resistance camellia significantly, we are making large numbers of such crosses.

To summarize what we are doing, we are collecting camellias from all available sources both in the wild state and in cultivation, and then selecting certain of these which can withstand the most cold weather. We are then collecting open-pollinated seed from these cold-hardy types as well as making controlled hybridizations between them. The seed from the open-pollinations and the controlled pollinations are started under glass, and after appropriate hardening are exposed to the brutalities of the Eastern winter. Presumably, some of the offspring of the original cold-resistant selections will be more cold-resistant than their parents. If this reasonable prediction comes true, then all camellia growers in the colder regions of the camellia belt will benefit, and possibly the camellia may become a dooryard shrub for some who had at one time considered it "a southern exotic".

KEEPING THEM UP TO SIZE

Cecil H. Eshelman

Camellias lend themselves almost perfectly to container culture. This accommodation by nature is indeed fortunate for those of us who have to contend with soil that is unsuited to the successful growing of the Camellia species. The soil that I refer to generally has a number of bad features such as having too heavy a texture, offering poor drainage, and is void of humus and organic matter. Unfortunately, much of the Southern California soil falls within this category, therefore many growers must resort to container culture.

It is pleasant to recount the many satisfying years that camellia growing with the use of containers has brought. Because of them, we have been able to enjoy and have had the same satisfaction as our camellia friends who have been blessed with ideal soil conditions. True, more physical effort is required with containers, but we believe that the added exercise has been helpful to us.

Practical as container methods are, I have observed one undesirable feature or drawback that is overlooked by many growers, which has caused me to alter my growing and collecting procedure. This weakness which I speak of may be dealt with by changing, to a degree, the method of collecting, or the method of holding your plants.

My collection contains a number of my original plants which are over twenty years of age and which have, in some cases, been grafted several times. The plants are planted in square redwood containers, which are twenty-four inches across. The roots by this time have completely enmeshed the original soil mix. Examination of the soil will reveal that the organic material has long since been utilized. Fortunately, because of the silty nature of the original mix, the plants are still thriving but they throw out several inches of half-vigorous new growth each spring. The flowers gradually have become smaller as the plant ages. It is this undersized condition of the flowers on these older plants that has caused my concern. Most growers agree that they would prefer fewer flowers but these should be at least up to size for the variety. These plants that produce small flowers would be ideal for landscaping where a mass effect is desirable, and where size of flower is of a minor importance. To a collector or a show competitor, flowers that are less than full size for the variety fail to kindle much enthusiasm.

Up to a certain age and size, container grown camellias will produce flowers that are as good as or even superior to those of the same age grown in the ground. As the container grown plant grows older (even though the proper container advancement has been followed) a slowing of growth or momentum will be observed. This trend can certainly be slowed by replacing some of the soil in the container, heavy pruning, and of course the proper advancement of containers. This loss of momentum may be caused by excessive root confinement which is always a threat where containers are used. Container confinement forces the roots to grow deeper than they normally prefer. Containers restrict the surface root area and could be a growth inhibitor; also, periods of drought and the practice of over-watering may have an influence on this slowing process.

If you have been growing camellias for some years, no doubt your growing area is filled with large plants, and I am certain you are contending with this undersized flower condition. In contrast to this situation, the new

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collector with young plants is placed in an excellent flower producing period, a time in which his plants are four to six years of age, and are growing at their peak.

Five years ago, I decided to reorganize my collection and to institute a program designed to give me those varieties that I wanted to retain in an age bracket that would provide normal sized flowers. The first step was to eliminate most of the older plants to give ample space for the many new plants that would be coming on. It was relatively easy to find a landscaper who could use these fine, large container grown plants. The one that I found took great delight in trucking them away, especially at the give away price at which they were obtained. A nurseryman took quite a few in exchange for grafting root stalk plants. I found that friends received these extra plants without much persuasion. There were several new churches that were in need of plants to complete their landscaping. One church accepted my offer of several dozen large plants, but later sold these plants to their parishioners to provide the necessary funds to purchase junipers, a plant that they finally decided to use in place of camellias. This large scale elimination program gave the much needed space to start over again on the many varieties that I wanted to retain in the collection.

The first year I grafted some twenty of the older varieties that I had discarded but still consider among my favorites. Most collectors desire duplicates of the choice varieties to include with the old ones. The older varieties on their own roots are obtainable in many nurseries at a reasonable price. These own-root plants have added vigor over grafted plants and are usually virus free. In addition, they are free of the trunk damage that occurs during the grafting process. If the older varieties are unobtainable in this form, naturally, grafting is the alternative. The best root stalk obtainable should always be used. A replacement program of this type will provide your collection with the best of the old and of course the new varieties with all blooms up to size. Try to keep the collection young at all times by utilizing the replacement program.

Have the old varieties lost their value in the shuffle to acquire the latest hot numbers? If you could restore to your collection some of these old ones and would see them again up to size, I am certain that they would rekindle within you the enthusiasm that was yours when you started your camellia hobby. In restoring them, you could throw out many of the name-only varieties that have failed to measure up to their preadvertising.

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JUDY PEET -- TEEN AGE CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEMBER

L. R. Shuey
Temple City, California

The young lady pictured here is Judy Peet, a member of the Temple City Camellia Society. She is probably one of the youngest and most ardent camellia enthusiasts in the California southland. Judy, who is 18, was born in Pasadena and since her birth has resided with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond B. Peet, in Temple City.

Since early childhood, she has been interested in all kinds of flowers, with particular emphasis on the camellia, and has attended as many camellia and flower shows as possible. About seven years ago, she attended one of the Temple City Camellia Society's shows and, while there, met and became acquainted with Mr. E. J. Alvarado, a member of the Southern California, Temple City and Pomona Camellia Societies. This meeting ripened into a warm friendship between the young girl and Mr. Alvarado. Mr. Alvarado soon became aware of Judy's love for camellias and her interest in growing plants. As Judy was anxious to know everything concerning the propogation and culture of camellias, Mr. Alvarado became her teacher and she his pupil and protege.

Through his untiring efforts she learned the essential points of caring for her favorite flower, such as the ingredients for proper soil mixture, re-potting, pruning and grafting. Under his supervision she has done an appreciable amount of grafting.

Her collection currently consists of about 60 varieties and about half of these have been obtained from grafting scions given to her by Mr. Alvarado and other friends. She also has evidenced an interest in camellia hybridizing and has had hybridizing techniques demonstrated and explained to her by Howard Asper,

Judy Peet

Merle Gish and by personnel of the Nuccio Nurseries.

Judy has entered her blooms during the past few years in several of the local monthly and annual camellia shows and has been successful in winning blue ribbons for some of her best entries.

Her public schooling was obtained at Cloverly, Oak and Temple City High Schools in Temple City. She was a member of the Senior graduating class in June 1963, and won the coveted Bank of America Achievement Award in the field of Fine Arts in 1963. While in high school, she was a gold seal bearer for three years and a member of the California Scholarship Federation. She was also a song girl in the high school drill team and a football princess during her senior year. She is continuing

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CAMELLIAS: THEIR FEMININE PROTAGONISTS

Margaret Howard Thompson

III

A short trip by air from Australia to New Zealand brings us to the homes of three New Zealand ladies who represent for us the camellia women of their country. One is an amateur grower; another, a grower's partner; and another, an admirer and user of the blooms. Camellias have grown in New Zealand for over a hundred years, but not until 1956 did the first group of enthusiasts organize to encourage cultivation of the plant, fellowship among growers, and exchange of knowledge. In an article in the 1957 ACS Yearbook Colonel Durrant of Tirau, New Zealand, gives credit for the formation of the South Auckland Camellia Society to the American Camellia Society, particularly the enthusiasm of its president, Ralph S. Peer, and to the Southern California Camellia Society. The name of the society was changed a few years ago to the New Zealand Camellia Society. Five active branches located on the North Island account for many of the 800 memberships in the N.Z.C.S. Interest in camellias is spreading to the South Island as is evidenced by more and more memberships from that area.

Let's visit first Mrs. Violet C. Adams at her new home on the seacoast near Auckland. Here is a real camellia fancier who loves gardening and is the camellia grower of the family. In her one acre garden can be found over 200 varieties, scores of seedlings, and stock plants for grafting. This new garden of the Adamses is located on a cliff overlooking the sea. What a breathtaking view they must have of the small islands in Waitemata Channel and perhaps even of the Pacific Coast. Growing camellias close to salt water, however, creates problems. Fortunately, the camellia japonica can stand up to the salt spray and wind, but Mrs. Adams has found that she must shelter the sasanqua, reticulata, and most of the species. Her sasanquas are growing beautifully in a sheltered spot, and granthamiana and pitardii are beginning to recover from a severe setback caused by being planted at first in exposed or semi-exposed postions. Her collection contains many of the recent introductions with which we in Southern California are familiar. Last year she flowered 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', and she has good plants of 'William Hertrich', 'Kick-off', 'Hit Parade', and quite a few others grafted late last year from scions from the United States.

Mrs. Adams was the first New Zealander to display camellia blooms for others' enjoyment. About eight or nine years ago, she displayed blooms at the Auckland Horticultural Council's Spring Show. The New Zealand Camellia Society organized a few years later and now holds an annual show. As a non-competitive supporter of camellia shows, Violet Adams feels that the competition of exhibiting blooms for prizes and ribbons helps to increase interest in the hobby. She was also instrumental in forming the Auckland Branch of the N.Z.C.S. and served on the Council for many years. Her recent retirement was necessary because of the demanding task of moving her camellia collection to her new garden. Lecturing on camellia culture is another of Violet Adams' interests. As she is primarily a scientific horticulturist, she has much good advice for the grower. She specializes in hybridizing — especially interspecific breeding. Some day her name will be known in the field of hybridizing for a new cross.

Membership in camellia societies helps to perpetuate interest in the

lower; and she, consequently, supports the American, International, Northern California, Southern California, Australian, and New Zealand Camellia Societies. Mrs. Adams is an accredited American Camellia Society judge and New Zealand's representative to the Australian Camellia Research Society. She likes all forms and colors of the camellia with a slight preference for pink and prefers only genetic variegations. This New Zealander prizes the opportunity to share camellia lore and experiences with fanciers from her local area and all over the world. She speaks of the pleasure of talking with Professor Waterhouse, Dave Feathers, Milo Rowell, Edwards Metcalf, Bill Wylam, and many others. Again friendship with camellia people is named as her most interesting experience by another camellia woman. Half way around the world or 11,500 miles from Europe where we began our trip, we still find the camellia weaving invisible strands of friendship from people in one country to another.

Continuing our journey approximately 200 miles south of Auckland, we reach Wanganui on the west coast of North Island. Wanganui has a population of 24,000 while Auckland has 124,000 residents. Both cities enjoy a mild climate as do most parts of New Zealand. Sea breezes cool the islands in summer and keep them fairly warm in winter. A west wind which blows most of the time eliminates much of the fog. Rainfall is well-distributed over the islands but the west coast usually gets a little more moisture than the east. New Zealand's greatest natural resource is its soil. The valleys and mountain slopes are covered with broad pasture lands and fertile farms. There are no deserts, but the mountain ranges on the west coast make about a sixth of the country unproductive. This country sounds ideal for the propagation of camellias in the ground, yet our next hostess maintains a large lathhouse.

At College Estate, Wanganui, we find Mrs. Francis Myrtle Bethwaite. She is interested in all aspects of camellia culture and floral arrangements, and is mistress of a charming garden on a fourth of an acre. This garden, described in an article in the July 1960 issue of the New Zealand Camellia Bulletin, would be a delight to visit. It contains succulents, ferns, roses, exotics, and all camellia species. The author, Noel Ginn, has this to say about gardens in general and the Bethwaite garden in particular:

"Surprise is the essential element. When planning a garden one would do well to consider it as the means of a leisurely walking tour. In the Bethwaite garden the front area does not suggest that there are any 'surprises' in store. It is the type of suburban front garden with an abundance of unusually fine material. One wanders down the drive with its large feature, 'Captain Rawes' and several sasanquas. Then appears the first surprise, the charming garage rockery of succulents. The plant lover may halt here indefinitely, but, keeping to the left, let's continue past the climbing roses and the special ilex to the large fern and alpine area. Here is another surprise. One encounters a well-defined pillared entrance. Three paths, tiny paths, fill the newcomer with a confusion of delights, for each of the walks is partly hidden from view. The plants and ferns in this area represent years and years of patient collecting and attention. In the deepest shade is a miniature tarn with its water gently tinkling like a music box as it spills into a lower pool."

The author continues to describe the tour and brings us to the most important part of the garden as far as camellia fans are concerned. He starts with the carefully screened and well-kept service area with interesting looking peat, sand and leafmould, three ingredients which are used by camellia growers in desert California. Next one sees the handsome lathhouse with its hundreds of plants which are in addition to the many planted along the trails. The lathhouse reminds Mr. Ginn of an im-

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portant past event when committee members went to it to see 'Dainty Maiden' in bloom for the first time, by torchlight, in the rain, at midnight. Memories recall similar treks in our area except perhaps for the rain. All the Bethwaite plants are boldly labelled in containers of various shapes and materials, plunged in beds of three levels with curving brick fronts. Some are espaliered against the rear wall. The lath-house contains a small heated propagating frame, and in another area of the garden there is a square high-roofed glasshouse where newly grafted camellias live with exotics until they can be moved to the lathhouse. Francis Bethwaite shares her husband's love of gardening and much of the beauty of the garden and its plants is her work. She grafts, raises seedlings, and watches for a new variety to crown her efforts. Semi-double camellias in solid white or pink variegated are her favorites.

Naturally, this lady grower is asked to share her knowledge and techniques through lectures at club meetings three or four times a year on a variety of camellia topics, for instance "My Favorite Camellias." She is modest about her contribution to the perpetuation of interest in camellias as is seen by this quote from her letter:

"Though intensely interested in camellias since 1940, and active in all camellia matters, I by no means consider myself an expert or a camellia personality."

Besides being a member of the New Zealand, Australian, and American Camellia Societies, she is a member of our own Southern California Camellia Society. The Bethwaites have traveled throughout New Zealand gathering specimens for their garden and visiting old camellia plantings, such as the Williamson garden planted in 1852. Our brief glimpse of their efforts to display interesting plants of all kinds is just enough to make us wish we could plan a camellia excursion to their country to see native plants in their natural setting and as they are used in cultivated gardens.

Another New Zealander who joins our two growers in disclaiming fame is Mrs. Phyl C. Doak of Papatoetoe, a small town of 3,700 people about 20 miles south of Auckland. Her exact words give us the reason why so many people know her name:

"The only reason you have heard of me is because of my husband's success as a hybridizer, and the fact that one of his crosses is named for me."

She goes on to tell of her love for camellias and her enjoyment in making flower arrangements both for her home and for exhibits sponsored by the two garden clubs to which she belongs. The Doaks have been working with camellias since 1936. The 'Phyl Doak' is a large semi-double pale pink flower with approximately fifteen clear soft petals. Extremely free flowering, it blooms early in the season, blooms for a long time and at a very early age Having a beautiful variety named for one is a claim to fame which many women around the world enjoy. Mrs. Phyl C. Doak is nominated their representative; and as we visit her in New Zealand, we take this opportunity to salute all those women around the world, past and present, whose names remind us of beautiful camellia blooms.

THE FAVORITE CAMELLIAS OF DOWN-UNDER LADIES

Australia

Janet Waterhouse
- Alba Plena
- Fimbriata
- Incarnata
- E. G. Waterhouse
- Mrs. H. Boyce
- Pukekura
- Janet Waterhouse
- Yukimi Guruma
- Peach Blossom
- Doris Tagg

Catherine Fairley
- Mrs. D. W. Davis
- R. L. Wheeler

Incarnata
Great Eastern
Coronation
Fimbriata
Grand Sultan
E. G. Waterhouse Var.
Lady Loch
Cornish Snow

New Zealand

Violet Adams
Guilio Nuccio
Phyl Doak
Donation
Coronation
The Czar
Mrs. D. W. Davis
Australis
C. M. Wilson
Marjorie Magnificent
An unnamed gorgeous formal double pink

Francis Bethwaite
Polar Bear
Lady Clare
Captain Rawes
Phyl Doak
Laurie Bray
E. G. Waterhouse
Mrs. D. W. Davis
Mrs. Bertha A. Harmes
Ellen Sampson
Hana Fuki

Phyl Doak
Captain Rawes
Coronation
C. M. Wilson
Maliflora
E. G. Waterhouse
Guilio Nuccio
Mrs. D. W. Davis
Phyl Doak
Blood of China
Magnoliaflora

ON SHOWING *(Continued)*

you haven't disbudded, find a single bloom on the plant and show that.

DON'T crowd your blooms or allow them to overlap. When you come up to the table to place your flowers, if there is no room left, call it to the attention of the Show Committee.

DON'T start shoving other people's blooms around trying to make a place for your own. Fair play and good sportsmanship should prevail at a Camellia Show as well as on a golf course.

DON'T try to put three, five, seven or more camellias in a small container. In those classes, individual containers are provided. Group your blooms attractively, don't crowd them, just see to it that each bloom is sitting up looking its very best.

It takes a little extra time to select only your best blooms, transport them carefully, and display them with loving care, but the results will justify the extra effort, and your chances of winning the Blue Ribbons will definitely increase. TRY IT NEXT TIME!

No S.C.C.S. Membership Cards To Members

The Secretary-Treasurer did not send new 1964 membership cards this year as members paid their 1964 dues. Time will tell if we were wrong. The new 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE is of course a receipt for the payment of dues, because it goes only to dues paying members. Basically, however, is the question of need for such cards when expenses are going up and dues remain static. This year the only erpense would have been that of printing the cards, because they could have been sent with the nomenclature book. In the years between editions of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE, however, postage expense is quite an item. We would be interested in receiving reactions from members who are sufficiently interested to pay the cost of a four cent post card.

Betty Robinson, late of "Betty's Barbs", asks: "If a great big flower is a cabbage, would a treated great big flower be sauerkraut?"

HYBRIDS ARE A CHALLENGE

Hamilton Fish
San Jose, California

When there are so many attractive camellia japonicas, reticulatas, sasanquas and other species on the market, why should we hybridize? Ask a mountain climber why he climbs a mountain, and he will answer, "because it is there." So it is with hybrids: we have the species, and the potential is a challenge too great to be ignored.

What do we seek in hybrids? One answer is the "luminescence" of some varieties. Another is the apparent greater hardiness. Still another, a hope for "color breaks" and the development of flowers of decided beauty and carrying fragrance as well. Of these, so far the hardiness factor would seem most important. During weather down to 15 degrees, of the commercial varieties, 'Brigadoon' continued to bloom on schedule, although the flowers were almost a formal double, with petal lips recurved. Another excellent producer during cold weather has been 'Robbie'. With this variety, flowers tend to increase in size in cold. Among my own hybrids, there was little change due to cold.

Winters at my place are cold, down to 15 degrees. Many of the buds on my breeding stock drop during the first cold spell. In April we usually have a few days of hot weather, into the 90 degree zone. This comes on abruptly during cold to cool weather. Many plants drop their embryo seeds at this period. Of the seeds which mature and are planted, cold takes some seedlings. Those seedlings which survive to blooming age are hardy. From them, it is hoped superior plants will be produced, both as to flower perfection and pathological resistance to temperature fluctuations.

About 12 years ago the possibilities of mutagenic chemicals intrigued me. At the same time the advantages of hormone treatments seemed apparent. After several years of trial and error a balance was established in a compound containing colchicine and hormones in an absorbent base. The idea behind this was to upset the chromosome count, alter the genetic pattern, and perhaps enable apparent unlike types to cross. This material is applied with a camel's hair brush to coat the growth buds as soon as they show. Subsequent growth also has the buds treated, etc. Time has proven that a change is effected, by foliar distortion, flower malformation. Some plants will not take the treatment, and die. Others become sterile due to regression of flower formation. Some plants have taken to the treatment. and thrive.

What is the hope behind such plant treatment? Mainly, to secure color breaks, to increase flower size in progeny, and to secure a high percentage of doubles in flower type. Last season several seedlings in 1st bloom proved quite fragrant. They will be watched with interest.

Serious camellia growers, both amateur and commercial, have been most generous with plants and scions of varieties which seem to offer promise in a breeding program. Any plants received are recanned so that all have the same soil blend for watering response. All plants, and all grafts after union is assured, are treated with the colchicine-hormone compound.

In the beginning careful records were kept as to parentage of seedlings. As the visible changes became obvious on treated plants, this time-consuming program was dropped. Only in "far-out" interspecific attempts utilizing pollen from outside sources is parentage recorded now. For my

purposes it is sufficient to know that a plant is a hybrid. And seedlings receive the "treatment" also, as soon as they produce the first pair of true leaves.

Is their any commercial value in all of this? Who knows? Many of the seedlings produce lovely blooms. Some are exceptional. One "yellow" flowering seedling, 1st bloom about 8 years ago, was less yellow each year and white from 3rd blooming season on. The buds are still yellow. Plant is sterlie. Blue and purple are hoped for colors. A rich burgundy-red is the closest to purple, and a washed out magenta is nearest to blue.

Soft pastel lavenders and pinks do not appeal to me. A good "gutty" red is desirable. A few of these have come through in good form and are being watched. Formals have no value in a breeding program, so of course my percentage of these is high. As well as lavenders and soft pinks.

To date the outstanding examples of hybrids produced here are: japonica X reticulata 'Capt. Rawes' which has japonica form and foliage, with a 'Capt. Rawes' flower; sasanqua X japonica 'High Hat' which is a semi-double to peony good pink, early blooming; sasanqua X C. sinensis, good foliage (ilicifolia) and unusual small flower; sasanqua X saluenensis, almost a vine with pretty small blossoms in rich pink; 'Sylvia May' X C. maliflora, very nice for those who like pastel pinkish-lavender; 'Sylvia May' in various crosses with C. williamsii, C. yunnanensis, C. pitardi (Tourje), "kuro tsubaki", reticulata 'Capt. Rawes', other reticulatas, and C. sinensis. There are also a number of good saluenensis crosses. The F2 and subsenquent crosses will tell the tale.

Which ever direction one moves when working with camellias, it is a groping in the dark. With fruit trees, nut trees, etc., there is a known background, from which results can be anticipated and predicated. This is not true with camellias. Wherever one turns in the camellia world, one hears authoritative advice, and one such proclamation will cancel out another. "Carry the pollen to the small flower" one authority will state. "Results are not worth while unless the large flower is the seed parent" another states emphatically. And so it goes.

Commonsense and trial and error are as good a guide as any. No matter what you do, somebody can declare that it is all wrong. Yet behind each absolute statement is a grain of truth: what the camellia will do in one area it refuses to do in another. Some varieties classed as sterile will bear seeds when in a proper setting. Crosses which are impossible in one place are usual in another.

Some varieties are apparently incompatible. This is true of attempted interspecific crosses generally speaking. Yet, with attempt after attempt

(Continued on next page)

made, success can sometimes be achieved. A sasanqua X japonica which seemed desirable took several years and more than 1,000 attempts before a seed was produced. When temperature, humidity and plant condition are in balance, anything can happen.

It does not take many plants to give a broad genetic background for hybridizing. Some varieties seem compatible with almost any species. Among these are 'Tinsie', 'Robbie', 'Sylvia May', C. Pitardi (Tourje), C. Saluenensis, C. X Williamsi, and several japonicas. With a few of these as seed parents, pollen can be secured from desired types. Pollen can be stored in gelatin capsules, with or without refrigeration, as long as it is dry. Such pollen has been successfully used when 4 years old (experience speaking, others may have had a greater time lapse).

With crosses resulting from carefully selected intergeneric or interspecific parents, the resultant seedlings are bound to be of interest. As themselves they may prove good. As breeding stock they should prove excellent.

As a hobby which inevitably leads one on from one year to the next, through interesting, even exciting days, camellia hybridizing has value. As a means of developing something of great personal interest, it is excellent. And of course, through such a hobby you can meet so many very wonderful people.

When you decide upon a certain cross, persist in your efforts to secure it. Time works in your favor. Every day varies, and during your attempts, you could find conditions favorable.

When you secure a hybrid, resist the impulse to get it on the market. Such varieties as 'Rose Bowl' and 'Bow Bells' offer nothing that was not already available in the C. X Williamsi group. Any number of amateur hybridizers have seedlings of their own production which outclass many now on the market, yet consider them not good enough. And they are not.

Hybridizing is fun. For that reason if for no other, it is worth doing.

KEEPING THEM *(Continued)*

This method of replacing old plants with young ones would appear to be the answer to the undersize blossom problem that occurs when certain grown plants age. Grafting the new unproven varieties is naturally exciting, but there is satisfaction in again grafting the old varieties. Each of us has learned much through experience. There are improved methods of culture, better soil mixes, avoidance of overpotting, better selection of root stalks for grafting. There can be excitement in using scions of a superior strain of a variety. All of these are growing aids that produce additional dividends for a second time around.

JUDY PEET *(Continued)*

her education at U.C.L.A. and is majoring in Art Design. She is living in the woman's dormitory on the campus and has been appointed a representative on the Board of the Associated Women's Students.

Judy is and has been a member of the Temple City Camellia Society for the past several years and is also a member of the Descanso Gardens Guild. It is indeed gratifying that some of our young people, such as Judy Peet, interest themselves in flowers and the finer things of life, particularly in view of the distractions of our present day world. Judy and the other younger members of our Societies are the lifeblood for the continuation, growth and expansion of these societies down through the years.

Best of luck and success to you, Judy, in the years to come.

NEXT S.C.C.S. MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 14th

The January meeting of S. C. C. S. is always a "must" meeting because of the fine display of blooms. The early varieties are still blooming in January and the mid-season varieties are starting to bloom; consequently, the January display of blooms is always magnificent. For the formal part of the meeting, Program Chairman Metcalf will produce a panel that will discuss questions relating to camellia culture. This meeting is designed particularly for S. C. C. S. members who have questions they want answered, or who want to listen in on discussions that will help them to grow better camellias.

Nuccio's Nurseries are providing plants for the drawing as follows:

SILVER CHALICE
RED ROGUE
MIDNIGHT
WILDFIRE
CORAL QUEEN
GRAND SLAM
KICK-OFF
DIXIE KNIGHT SUPREME
JULIA FRANCE
BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME
WILLIAM HERTRICH (retic)
FELICE HARRIS (hyb)
BLACK DIAMOND (min)
TIFFANY
MONA MONIQUE
HAWAII

Speaker at the meeting of December 10th was Dr. Clifford Parks of the staff of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, who is devoting his full time to work for the Camellia Research Advisory Committee. Dr. Parks talked on the subject "Fingerprinting Camellias". He will prepare his talk in manuscript form for publication in the February issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW.

Display of blooms has new interest this year because of the adoption of a separate Class for Special Culture blooms; i.e., gibberellic acid treated. The use of gibberellic has increased this year; consequently, in addition to there being more treated blooms they are grouped and therefore stand out. Winners of all classes at the November and December meetings were:

NOVEMBER

Special Culture

Japonica—Large & Very Large
'Imperator (Fr)', 'Tiffany', 'Dr. John D. Bell'
Japonica—Small & Medium
'Alba Plena', 'Kumasaka'

Normal Culture

Japonica—Large & Very Large
'Alice Wood', 'Joshua Youtz', 'Hawaii', 'Kick-Off', 'Angel'
Japonica—Small & Medium
'High Hat', Daikagura Red', 'Debutante', 'Ballet Dancer'

(Continued on page 29)

TEMPLE CITY SOCIETY BREAKFAST

The Temple City Society's kick off breakfast of the 1963-1964 camellia season, held on Sunday morning, October 27th, at the home of Leslie and Elsie Marshall, was well attended by Camellia Society members from Fresno to San Diego.

Some of our most enjoyable autumn weather was at hand, which aided to whet the appetites of those that breakfasted with us. The ham and eggs and hot biscuits were so appetizing that several came back for seconds.

These breakfasts have been traditional with the Society during the past ten years and have served as a "get acquainted" meeting for all camellia people throughout the Southland. They have always provided an excellent opportunity for friends to meet after the vacation season, and to discuss the progress of grafts made, seedlings, new introductions and camellia plans in general for the forthcoming year.

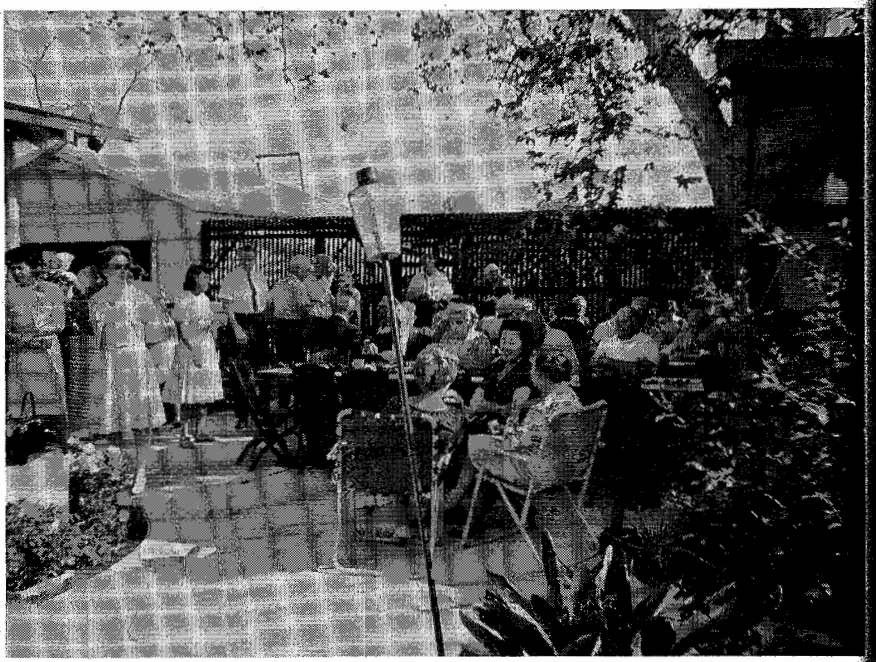
During recent years, these breakfasts have been held alternately at the Marshall and the Clarence Rose Camellia Nurseries and are an integral part of the camellia program of the Temple City Camellia Society.

★

Dinner Will Highlight Descanso Show

One of the high lights of the annual Descanso Gardens Camellia Show, which will be held on the week-end of February 29-March 1, will be the no host dinner on the 29th at the La Canada Country Club. Bob Dickson, who is chairman of this event, reports that plans for the dinner have been completed. He says "This is the nicest place around that could be found. The decor and food are outstanding and the view is magnificent".

There will be a social hour, also no host, preceding the 7:30 P.M. dinner. Full information will be supplied to all who register for the Show.



Elsie Dryden checks with Les Marshall to be sure her eggs are cooked just right.

One of the tables at the breakfast.

'MONA MONIQUE' -- ITS HISTORY

Harold E. Dryden

An incorrect statement in the October 1963 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW regarding the origin of C. japonica 'Mona Monique' calls for a statement of the origin of this beautiful new camellia. Ralph Peer was always on the lookout for new camellias while he was on his world tours in connection with his music publishing business. On one of these tours, he and Mrs. Peer saw a beautiful japonica which they coveted. In 1944 or 1955 Mr. Eikichi Satome of Tokyo took a trip into the northern provinces of Japan, at the instigation of Mr. Peer and Mr. Frank Griffin primarily to find specimens of garden type C. rusticana. On this trip he obtained also scions of the variety which Mr. and Mrs. Peer had seen, and included them among the other scions he sent to Mr. Peer and Mr. Griffin. To make certain they would be properly identified, he cut special notches on the leaves and used a special number. Mr. Griffin's scion "took" but Mr. Peer's did not. In the following year Mr. Peer received duplicate scions from Mr. Satomi, also one from Mr. Griffin, from which he received "takes".

The first bloom to show on this importation was in 1957 at Magnolia Gardens, where Mr. Griffin's plant was being kept by C. Norwood Hastie, Jr. and, to quote Mr. Griffin, "although it was a very beautiful flower we paid little attention to it". In 1961, however, Mr. Griffin wrote about it as follows in his magazine CAMELLIAN (January 1962 issue). "Seldom do we go way out on a limb about a particular camellia variety. On December 8 C. Norwood Hastie, Magnolia Gardens, S. C. brought a camellia bloom by our office. Fifteen minutes after our first glance we regained our composure and for the first time in our camellia lives we drooled over this magnificent bloom. Without any fear of contradiction — even after it is generally known — we can say that this bloom is the ultimate in camellia beauty — both in form and color. We are now checking with Mr. Satomi from whom the scions were received to try to determine just what it is.

"The delicate petals are notched, frilled, curled, and twisted in almost an even pattern. The blossom is about 5½ inches across and from the tips of the upright full petals to the bottom of the flower it measures about three inches. It has a close short bunch of pale yellow, almost green-tipped stamens and among them is interspersed many miniature petaloids the same height as the short stamens. The color at the base of the irridescent petals is the palest pink with a whitish cast and the petals gradually shade toward the tip of each petal into a deeper blush or very light clear pink. Two small incurved petals of almost a fuschia pink fold almost over the bed of stamens. We have never seen a more spectacular flower with as much outstanding beauty as this rare find."

Meanwhile, the flower had bloomed at Park Hill, the Peer home in Hollywood. I recall vividly a night when Mrs. Peer wore a bloom in her hair to a meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society. When Mrs. Peer read the article in the CAMELLIAN, quoted above, she initiated steps to verify that the bloom described by Frank Griffin and her bloom, which Mr. Peer had decided to call 'Mona Monique' in her honor, were the same variety. This proved to be the case. As Mr. Griffin states it, the scions were from a seedling located at a farmer's house in a remote part of Japan and which had not been propagated there. Mr. Griffin readily agreed to the name

lona Monique' which Mr. Peer had hosen prior to his death.

It has been propagated on the East oast by Magnolia Gardens and on he West Coast by Nuccio's Nurseries. Ir. Griffin reports that his "parent" lant and all grafts made at Magnolia ardens and in his own garden have loomed with solid color. The West oast plants however, have produced ariegated blooms due to virus in the eer "parent" stock. Nuccio's have isposed of most of their 1963 stock, nd their remaining plants have not et bloomed this year; consequently ey cannot say whether their plants ill be predominantly variegated.

emple City amellia Society

The Society's next meeting will be eld on Thursday evening, January 3, 1964, at 8:00 o'clock in the Lecure Hall of the Los Angeles County rboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., rcadia.

The guest speaker of the evening ill be John C. Robinson, who will resent an illustrated talk on his favrite subject the "miniature" camelia. Mr. Robinson has one of the rgest collections of small and miniaure camellias in Southern California nd he will tell us how to grow the mall ones, if we haven't been able o size up the large varieties in our ardens.

A home baked pie and cake sale ill be held in conjunction with the eeting, which will be in lieu of the ormer "dime-a-dip" dinner formerly ponsored by the Society during the onth of January.

The Society issues a cordial invitation to all Camellia Society members and their friends to be with us t this meeting.

NEXT S.C.C.S. *(Continued)*

Japonica—Miniature
'Tinker Bell', 'Kiku Toji'
Sasanqua
'Sparkling Burgundy', 'Dazzler'

DECEMBER

Special Culture
Japonica—Large & Very Large
'Lady Clare', 'Thelma Dale', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'White Nun', 'Clarise Carlton'
Japonica—Small & Medium
'Spring Sonnet', 'Ballet Dancer', 'Magic Moments', 'Debutante'
Normal Culture
Japonica—Large & Very Large
'Clarise Carlton', 'Alice Wood', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Mattie O'Reilly'
Japonica—Small & Medium
'Debutante', 'Fire Falls', 'Lynn Woodroof', 'Ballet Dancer', 'My Fair Lady'
Japonica—Miniature
'Fircone', 'Tinsie'
Sasanqua
'Showa-No-Sakae', 'Little Gem', 'Interlude', 'Hiryu', 'Miss Ed'

For California People Only

Following quotation is from a letter received by the Editor: "Last year our first hard freeze (20°) was December 12, and here it is December 10 and I'm not quite prepared. I've been working at it, and almost everything is safe. The heater has been checked and works. Leaves are raked up and stuffed between containers that are to spend the winter outside; still have to put pine straw over the leaves to help hold them down and hold the cold back. Didn't get the little greenhouse enlarged as I planned. We keep hoping for another mild winter, while expecting another stinker. A few more people have protection for plants now, so that our shows can be held regardless of the weather."

KNOW YOUR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA NURSERYMEN

PART 8 — ANDREW SURINA

Ernest (Ernie) Pieri

Did you know that Andy Surina had been a chef (and a very good one) for the movie studios as well as owning his own restaurant? We have discussed two husband and wife teams engaged in the growing and selling of Camellias that have been reported in previous articles, and now I would like to introduce the third team of Mary and Andy Surina.

Andy is a native of Trieste, in Europe, and came to California after World War I. He was influenced in this decision by a brother who lived in Southern California and had written glowing reports of this area to the folks back home. While living in Trieste, Andy had had some experience with growing plants and grafting, as his father had a fruit orchard and Andy had learned to graft fruit trees.

Andy's brother was a chef in a local restaurant and was instrumental in getting Andy started as a cook, a vocation that was to last for twenty-five years before he quit and went into the nursery business. He worked in cafes and restaurants as well as in the movie commissaries where he met and knew many of the famous movie stars of that era. He worked from 1927 to 1930 at the Warner Brothers Studio and then transferred to the Universal Studios where he worked for fourteen years before retiring to become a nurseryman.

It was through Mary's father that Andy became interested in camellias. His father-in-law gave him his first camellia plant — 'Pink Perfection'. Andy liked it and made cuttings of it, and thus what started out as a hobby grew to the present day nursery. While still working as a chef, he bought his first nursery. In the early part of 1947, he visited a friend who had a nursery and from him bought 200 camellia plants. 'Mme. Jannoch', 'Pink Perfection' and 'Sarah Frost' camellia plants made up most of the collection. A friend, Frank Douglas, taught him how to make camellia grafts. To house this collection, Andy had to build a lath house. He saw the 1947 Camellia Show that was staged at Brookside Park in Pasadena, and like many of us fell in love with the many colors and varieties of camellia blooms. Mary and Andy had a lath house, knew how to graft, and had plenty of plants for understock, so you know what happened. They bought plants of the camellias that they liked, and grafted more of the same as well as adding new varieties by grafting scions.

Andy would work for relaxation in his camellias after a day's work at the restaurant, but by 1953 he had accumulated too many plants to keep them as a hobby and part time nursery. He had to make up his mind whether to quit cooking and go into the nursery business full time, or quit growing so many camellias so that he didn't have to spend so much time caring for them. The nursery business won out and Andy was into a full time growing program.

He started his first nursery in 1950 near to present Sherman Oaks Freeway. In 1957 he and Mary moved their nursery to their present location on Parthenian Avenue, Sepulveda, in the San Fernando Valley. Andy also became interested in growing seeds for camellia seedlings. He bought his first seeds from the Southern California Camellia Society and from Stanley Miller, who was living at Oceanside at this time. He has planted

over 15,000 seeds and from these seedlings has introduced two very lovely camellias: 'Cardinal's Cap', a miniature, anemone-form, cardinal red and very unique bloom; and 'Moonlight Sonata', a large, semi-double, soft light pink bloom. Andy and Mary are also growing azaleas and gardenias.

In addition to growing and selling azaleas and camellias, Andy and Mary encourage the local garden clubs to visit their nursery, where the Surinas show films and discuss the culture of camellias. They both give talks and show their films to the Adult Education Classes at Van Nuys High School and at Pierce City College.

A week-end trip to Surina's Camellia Gardens should be a must for those who like to visit nurseries and to talk with the grower. Take the Ventura Freeway to the Bakersfield Freeway Turnoff. Drive north to the Roscoe Street off-ramp. Turn left on Roscoe to Haskell Street, then right on Haskell to Parthenian Avenue and left on Parthenian Avenue to 16054 Parthenia, Surina's Camellia Gardens. When you leave you will know that you have had an enjoyable visit and drive.

NEW 1964 EDITION OF "CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE"

The first copies of the new 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE were received from the printer on December 5th and by December 10th the books were in the mail to all S. C. C. S. members who had paid their dues for 1964 and to all others who had ordered copies. Society members have since been sent their copies as their 1964 dues have been received by the S. C. C. S. Secretary-Treasurer.

Statements will be sent in January to members who have not paid their dues for 1964.

Directory of Affiliated Societies

Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield
President: Melvin G. Canfield; Secretary: Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, 1902 Niles St., Bakersfield.
Meetings held 2nd Monday of the month, October through April, in Police Building, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield.

Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana
President: Paul McClelland; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa Ana.
Meetings held first Thursday of month, October through April, in Orange County Farm Buerau Building, 1916 W. Chapman, Orange.

Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno
President: Mert Weymouth; Secretary: Mrs. Karen Ahrens, 1144 Saginaw, Fresno 4.
Meetings held at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno on Nov. 20, Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 25.

Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino
Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.

Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona
President: I. John Movich.
Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, in the Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Bldg., Garey Ave. & Center St., Pomona (1 block South of Holt).

San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego
President: Mrs. Althea T. Hebert; Secretary: Mrs. J. O. Henry, P.O. Box 522, Chula Vista.
Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Association Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.

Southern California Camellia Society.....San Marino
President: A. Wilkins Garner; Secretary: Harold E. Dryden, 820 Winston Ave., San Marino.
Meetings held Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino.

Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City
President: Harry S. Putnam; Secretary: Mrs. Peter Folino, 708 W. Pepper Dr., Arcadia.
Meetings held Friday, November 29th and thereafter December thru March on 4th Thursday in Lecture Hall of L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

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